



# PESTICIDES NEWSLETTER



A collaboration between EPA and the Region 4 States

Quarterly Newsletter of the Pesticides Section of the Region 4 Environmental Protection Agency

Jane Horton, Editor

## New Internet Technology Allows Public Access to State Pesticide Program Information

CLEMSON -- Faced with current Y2K compliance issues, South Carolina's Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) decided to shift towards a uniform, user-friendly system which would be accessible to the public, as well as employees.

The DPR's Network Administrator Eduardo Nieves explained how it works to Tyres Tatum, SC Project Officer. Private and commercial applicators visiting the site can check to see how many recertification credits are needed to fulfill their educational requirements. Applicators can also use the system to search for recertification courses and to check the status of their business license. EPA and state-generated data are used to provide DPR inspectors, the public and applicators with reports of companies enforcement histories. The data is retrieved instantaneously and is constantly updated by personnel in charge of individual programs.

Online since 1996, the DPR's site is located at: <http://dpr.clemson.edu/> and includes over 400 pages of insect photos and frequently asked questions (FAQ), exam schedules, news releases and departmental regulations. It is maintained by Elizabeth Kane, Public Information Director for DPR. Ms. Kane said, "You won't find our mission statement or our organizational chart on the homepage. This website is designed for the pesticide applicator, not our VPs and top executives."

Current issues, or hot topics, are always changing on the main page and there's a topical search to provide people with a

shortcut to the information they need.

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## Kentucky Settlement Nets \$800,000

The Commonwealth of Kentucky Office of the Attorney General and Terminix International reached a settlement stemming from a 1994 Consent Judgement. Under the 1994 Consent Judgement, Terminix was required to reinspect all homes treated for termites between 1989 and 1994 and where appropriate retreat and repair termite damage.

Under the most recent settlement, \$267,000 consists of civil penalties and the balance goes to fund state compliance administration, research work at the University of Kentucky to enhance the termite control industry's development of innovative technologies; consumer awareness and programs within Terminix itself. The settlement program includes 2 years of monitoring of some Terminix customers by the KDA and Attorney General's Office.

## Kentucky Hosts ASPRCO Meeting

John McCauley, Director of the Division of Pesticides of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Division of Pesticides is pleased to announce that they will host the annual Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials in Lexington, Kentucky. The

meeting is scheduled to begin with the ASPRCO Executive Board meeting on Saturday, August 21 and runs through Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. Contact John for more information about the meeting.

## South Carolina Urban Initiative Pesticide Program

The DPR has continued working toward the development of the State's Urban Initiative program to *Prevent Agricultural Pesticide Use in Urban Environments*.

In January, the DPR provided management personnel at social service agencies with Urban Initiative (U.I.) educational materials for their statewide offices. Working with the Department of Social Services (DSS), and State and County Health programs, and 350 DSS Child/Adult care centers, DPR distributed almost 12,500 UI brochures and over 700 UI posters across South Carolina. To date a total of 22,000 brochures, 1950 posters and 2035 flyers have been provided by the DPR to social service agencies in South Carolina.

During 1999 the DPR has worked closely with staff at the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, SC Department of Social Services, SC Employment Security Commission, Migrant Labor Commission (LL&R), SC Rural Manpower Division, Adult & Child Daycare Facilities, Medicaid Private Physicians, Migrant and Rural Health Clinics, SC Poison Control Center, SC Agromedicine Program, EFNEP-Expanded Food & Nutrition Educational Program and CUCES-Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service.

The DPR has set up six half-day training sessions across the state for social service providers on how to recognize and

educate their clientele about the misuse of agricultural pesticides in urban settings. They expect to distribute between 30,000 and 60,000 brochures and over 1200 posters and flyers during these sessions. The training will be conducted by the Special Programs Coordinator, Tammy Hughes-Lark and the Urban Initiative Research Analyst, Cathy Bundrick. An Urban Initiative slide set, workbook, fact sheet and information flyers will be presented to each participant. It is the goal of the DPR to train social service providers to recognize a pesticide misuse situation and know who to contact for help.

South Carolina has also provided camera ready diskettes and Urban Initiative Promotional Posters to Region 4 which will be distributed. Additional projects that the SPC and EPA have worked on this quarter include the development of an Urban Initiative/Worker Protection Standard coloring book. The SPC has researched printing and production specifications for this project.

DPR Regulatory Specialists are also involved in outreach and education efforts for the Urban Initiative. During routine Ag. Inspections and at Dealer Inspections when deemed appropriate, Regulatory Specialists address the Urban Initiative area in an effort to prevent potential misuse of agricultural pesticides in urban settings.

## Urban Pesticide Initiative

Well, it looks like we've finally hit pay dirt!! As with all the EPA regional offices, Region 4 has finally received our fair share of some urban initiative money. Many of our projects will take a great deal of effort to go from the drawing table to the finished product but we're very optimistic. Vince Lombardi once said "Winning isn't everything, but wanting to win is". We here at Region 4 have adopted the same philosophy. Keep trying, and reinvent to make this effort work and work RIGHT. Over the next year, we plan to work with Harpo

Productions (The Oprah Show), childrens programming, the Center for Puppetry Arts, some potential national spokespersons and a point of purchase campaign with our Stewardship Committee. Attached is a table describing 13 of the 33 projects that were funded by the Office of Pesticide Programs for FY 99 that Region 4 plans to undertake. We also plan to send out yet another solicitation for additional projects for some enforcement, compliance assistance, and education for the urban initiative.

## Carlton's Corner

There is a rumor going around that a career change is in order for me in the near future. Well, its true. I have been the Pesticides Section Chief since August 1990. Since that time I have been blessed with a bright and energetic staff, many of whom also shared a vision of how EPA should interact with the states, how pesticides should be managed strategically and what we need to do to get there. I'm very proud of the many accomplishments of the Section and Region 4 states in the past nine years and I probably could have remained in this position for several more years and been content. Earlier this year, however, I decided that I wanted to be more active in the actual implementation of some of the projects underway in Region 4. In addition, I had been approached by EPA Headquarters about playing a greater role in some national projects. It was the idea of an active role that appealed to me more than the indirect involvement required of supervisors and managers.

After approaching my management with the idea and declaring my desire to remain in the pesticides program, my Branch Chief, Carol Kemke, and my Division Director, Winston Smith, worked with our personnel office to create a position for me. I have now

been named a National Pesticides Expert and am assigned to Carol's office. I will be working on a number of projects which are both national and regional in scope. I am on the faculty of the National Enforcement Training Institute and will be active in the development and implementation of pesticide training programs – in particular pesticide inspector training courses. We're still defining what all I'll be doing, but it will involve state visits and special projects. I hope to see you soon in the field.

Wish me luck as I get back into more of a hands-on involvement in pesticides management.

## Cross Contamination Penalty

On April 21, 1999, Region 4 filed a signed Consent Agreement and Consent Order in a FIFRA civil action against **LESCO, Inc.**, Rocky River, Ohio. LESCO was cited for two distributions of a pesticide the composition of which differed from that identified on its Confidential Statement of Formula (FIFRA Sec. 12(a)(1)(C)), and for two distributions of a misbranded pesticide (FIFRA Sec. 12(a)(1)(E) - 2(q)(1)(G)). The product, "LESCO Horticultural Oil Insecticide", EPA Reg. # 10404-66, was contaminated with the herbicide 2,4-D.

The Alabama Dept. of Agriculture (ADA) received a property owner complaint concerning herbicide damage to shrubbery sprayed by a lawn management company. While conducting the follow-up Use Inspection, ADA inspector **Jerry Haynes** was informed by the Cooperative Extension Agent that the damage appeared to be herbicidal even though no herbicides were alleged to have been used.

The inspector obtained samples of the insecticide, "LESCO Horticultural Oil Insecticide", EPA Reg. # 10404-66, from the applicator, All Green Lawn Management. ADA's laboratory conducted the analysis and found the

insecticide to be contaminated with the herbicide 2,4-D.

The ADA inspector then went to the LESCO dealer in Huntsville, from which the chemical was purchased, and obtained additional samples of "LESCO Horticultural Oil Insecticide". An analysis of this sample also revealed contamination with the herbicide, 2,4-D.

LESCO has paid a civil penalty of \$14,400. In addition, they have agreed to dedicate production lines at the establishment where the cross contamination occurred. Good job Mr. Haynes and the Alabama laboratory! Case Developer: James West

## Who's Who of Life Sciences

Keeping up with mergers among the large pesticide and bio-engineering firms is difficult at best. Company names change and so do their focuses. Below is a brief of recent updates of research and promotional focuses of the major pesticide registrants excerpted from the April 12 issue of Business Week:

**ASTRAZENECA** - - Merger of Zeneca with drugmaker Astra creates a life-sciences company focusing on both pharmaceuticals and genetically engineered crops.

**AVENTIS** - - A new life-sciences operator to be created this year by the merger of Hoechst and Rhone-Poulenc, Aventis will divest its chemicals businesses.

**DOW CHEMICAL** - - Playing catch-up to industry leaders, Dow wants to focus on improved crops and industrial applications such as creating plastics from corn.

**DUPONT** - - Plans to use cash generated by slower-growing businesses like polyester and chemicals to fund

aggressive investments in life sciences.

**EMPRESAS LA MODERNA** - - A growing force in the industry, Mexico's ELM wants to play on its strength in vegetable and fruit seeds by developing products with better nutritional value, taste, or longer shelf life.

**MONSANTO** - - The most aggressive dealmaker in life sciences, Monsanto is focusing exclusively on agriculture, drugs, and food after the spin-off of its chemical business in 1997.

**NOVARTIS** - - Considered the sleeping giant in life sciences, Novartis is looking to develop new biotech crops and leverage the company's nutrition business by introducing disease-fighting cereals or seeds.

## More News on the FQPA Front

EPA is seeking public comment on a draft Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) guidance document titled "Choosing a Percentile of Acute Dietary Exposure as a Threshold of Regulatory Concern," which presents the Agency's current approach and rationale for using the 99.9th percentile as a standard for regulation in acute dietary (food) risk assessment. This is one of the key science policies identified by the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee as crucial to implementing tolerance reassessment under FQPA. This paper discusses how EPA currently applies the statutory safety standard to acute dietary risk assessments when setting pesticide tolerances (maximum residue levels) in food, including analyses to determine the nature and the amounts of pesticides that people might be exposed to over a single day. It describes Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP's) interim policy, concerns that have been raised about it, associated public health issues, and OPP's plan

for further evaluation and implementation. This policy has broad applicability to the reassessment of many pesticides. Copies of this document, which was published in the Federal Register on April 7, and other supporting documents may be obtained from:

<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST>.

## Atlanta Hosts Second in Series of Inspector Courses

Sixty state inspectors attended the second Region 4 Pesticide Inspector Training and Certification Conference held in Atlanta, GA, during the week of May 10, 1999. A highlight of the conference was the guest speaker, Mr. Rick DeGroff of the Verbal Judo Institute, who gave a tremendous presentation on how to communicate effectively with difficult people.

The next Inspector Certification and Training Conference will be held the week of July 19, 1999, in Atlanta, GA.

## 1998 Top Ten Agrochemical Companies

Nearly all the major agrochemical companies increased sales in 1998, according to Agrow: World Crop Protection News. DuPont's combined agrochemical and biotechnology sales increased by over 25%, the highest rate of increase for the top ten corporations. DuPont recently announced that it had agreed to acquire the outstanding 80% stake in Pioneer HiBred International that it did not already own. Pioneer, the world's largest seed company with sales of US\$1,835 million in 1998, controls about 42% of the U.S. maize seed market.

Monsanto's growth rate was a close second with combined agrochemical and seed sales increasing by more than

23% in 1998. This was due to a 25% increase in volume sales of the herbicide

glyphosate (Roundup) and a tripling of the area planted with Monsanto's genetically modified crops.

Novartis was the overall sales leader in 1998 with pesticide sales reaching US\$4,152 million and seed sales at US\$1,005 million. Novartis, as well as Cyanamid, DuPont, Rhone-Poulenc and Zeneca were all hit by lower than expected herbicide sales in the U.S. due to low commodity prices and weather conditions as well as other factors.

Agrochemical and seed sales in Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America were generally lower due in part to economic problems in these regions. However, Cyanamid, Dow AgroSciences, Novartis, Rhone-Poulenc and Zeneca all reported increased sales in Latin America. Cyanamid, Dow and Novartis also had high sales in Asia.

Top ten agrochemical companies -- 1998 sales (Use monospace font to display table)

| Company              | Sales*  | % Change** |
|----------------------|---------|------------|
| Novartis (Swiss)     | \$4,152 | -1.1%      |
| Monsanto (U.S.)      | \$4,032 | 23%        |
| DuPont (U.S.)        | \$3,156 | 26%        |
| Zeneca (U.K.)        | \$2,897 | 8.3%       |
| AgrEvo (Ger)         | \$2,410 | 2.5%       |
| Bayer (Ger)          | \$2,273 | 0.2%       |
| Rhone-Poulenc (Fr)   | \$2,266 | 2.9%       |
| Cyanamid (U.S.)      | \$2,194 | 3.5%       |
| Dow Agro-Sci. (U.S.) | \$2,132 | 11%        |
| BASF (Ger)           | \$1,945 | 4.9%       |

\* Millions of US\$

\*\* Since 1997

Sources: Agrow: World Crop Protection News, March 26, 1999 and April 16, 1999.

## OPP Extends Review Schedule for Aluminum and Magnesium Phosphide

EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs has extended its schedule for completing the ongoing reregistration review of the fumigants Aluminum and Magnesium Phosphide (or Phosphine). This extension will allow more time for stakeholder involvement, public input, and complete consideration of alternative ways to reduce risks from these important pesticides. According to the recently revised schedule, the Agency plans to:

- consider comments received so far and attend fumigant demonstrations in May-July 1999;
- issue a revised set of proposed risk mitigation measures in August 1999;
- hold stakeholder meetings in several U.S. cities in October and November 1999; and
- issue final risk mitigation measures needed for reregistration, in late 1999 or early 2000.

Through a draft Aluminum and Magnesium Phosphide Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) document, released in December 1998 EPA invited public input on how to reduce the risks associated with these pesticides, used primarily to control insects and rodents in facilities where raw agricultural and processed food commodities are stored. The Agency proposed 15 risk reduction measures to increase the level of protection to bystanders and pesticide applicators from exposure to the highly toxic phosphine gas which is created when these pesticides are used. Many comments were received questioning the feasibility of the proposed measures. Since few, if any, viable alternatives exist for fumigation to control pests in stored products, EPA is continuing to seek extensive stakeholder and public involvement in developing workable ways to reduce

risks.

Using input from this first comment period, EPA initially planned to release a revised risk mitigation proposal for discussion at a series of public meetings this spring. EPA is extending this schedule because of its need to further consider the more than 600 comments received on the initial proposal. In addition, EPA is working with USDA's Phosphine Task Force, NIOSH, OSHA, and a coalition of industry groups and user organizations to identify feasible risk mitigation measures before releasing a new proposal.

EPA invites all interested individuals and groups to participate in the ongoing stakeholder process for Aluminum and Magnesium Phosphide. For additional information, contact Mark Hartman in the Office of Pesticide Programs, telephone 703-308-0734, e:mail Hartman.Mark@epa.gov.

## Delta F.A.R.M. Meeting

Stoneville, MS

Mark Bloeth, Project Officer for Mississippi, attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Delta F.A.R.M. (Farmers Advocating Resource Management) meeting on April 9, 1999 in Stoneville, MS. This meeting was arranged for the stakeholders and contributors to the Delta F.A.R.M. initiative. The program is a voluntary cooperative effort by farmers interested in furthering existing environmental stewardship practices on Mississippi farms. The program assesses a farmers progress in soil and water conservation, pesticide stewardship, and wildlife management in an attempt to aid in conserving, protecting and restoring the unique ecology of the Mississippi Delta. The 'Delta' comprises an 18 county area in northwest Mississippi which includes Desoto, Tate, Tunica, Panola, Quitman, Coahoma, Bolivar, Tallahatchie, Leflore, Sunflower, Carroll, Washington, Humphreys, Holmes, Sharkey, Yazoo, Issaquena, and Warren counties.

The purpose of the meeting was to convey information about 1998 participation of landowners and farmers and the results of on-site evaluations at farms. The following crops, in order of acreage, are represented in the program: cotton, soybeans, rice, corn, wheat, catfish, and other commodities. The evaluations are conducted by Delta F.A.R.M. program personnel in cooperation with Farm Bureau employees. The total acres enrolled and evaluated for 1998 was 161,629 acres. This represents 41 volunteer Delta F.A.R.M. members. Evaluation results were explained as follows:

- 1) **Soil Conservation.** Most areas received high marks with the exception of "cover crops" where only 50% of participating members engage in this activity;
- 2) **Water Conservation.** Areas for possible improvement include: "water quality testing", "cover crops", and "surface water and tail water recovery;"
- 3) **Pesticide / Hazardous Waste.** The areas for possible improvement include "construction buffers" and "water quality testing", while some high marks were received for "closed mix system" and "back siphoning" devices; and
- 4) **Wildlife Category.** The area for possible improvement included "wildlife plan."

Awards were given to select establishments who scored 90% or higher on the on-site evaluation. One-on-one meetings will be held with prospective members and a steady but slow growth in membership is expected.

## Enforcement and Inspection Data on the Web

Troy Pierce reports that we are making progress with plans to include the Compliance Activity Tracking System (CATS) and Pesticide Enforcement Tracking System (PETS) data on the Internet. As some of you may already know, the federal government is under a

mandate to provide public access to data and information over the Internet. By providing the public easy access to data via our EPA website, we are making the process of government regulation and decision-making more transparent and providing data to the public for help in local decision making.

With the CATS and PETS data on the Internet, the public will be able to determine things such as which pesticides are most commonly used (and misused) at certain target areas; the 'performance' of businesses as far as complying with applicable laws; the numbers of inspections performed by State agencies and a host of other relevant regulatory issues. This information empowers the public to make more complete decisions based on data gathered by the states and EPA and paid for with taxpayer dollars. Having data readily available through the Internet also helps the public insure government is performing and providing results in an acceptable manner.

We are also going to include on the EPA website state access to enforcement information. Many state personnel have requested an easy way to view information about cases from other states. Particularly, it has been suggested that it is currently difficult to track an applicator which may be moving around within a state or between states. By providing access for states to CATS and PETS data for the eight states within Region 4, state programs will benefit from more targeted inspection and enforcement efforts. One note, as always, no information about active cases will be available to the public until the resolution of the case.

Any input you may have concerning needs for the website or questions about the website are greatly appreciated. Contact Dr. Troy Pierce at (404) 562-9016 or E-mail at [pierce.troy@epa.gov](mailto:pierce.troy@epa.gov).

## LAKE APOPKA BIRD DEATHS STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION

A number of state and federal agencies are still trying to determine exactly what led to the deaths of over 1,000 birds in Florida this past fall, winter, and spring. Approximately 500 of the birds died around the Lake Apopka area which is near Orlando in Central Florida. Although a few protected species such as wood storks, herons, and egrets died, the majority of the affected birds were white pelicans. Preliminary data indicate birds may have eaten fish containing elevated levels of organochlorine pesticides such as toxaphene, dieldrin and DDT when the area was partially flooded this past summer.

The area of concern encompasses approximately 13,000 acres of flooded farmland around the 31,000 acre lake. The former farms, consisting of muck land, were purchased by St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), at a cost of approximately \$100 million. The SJRWMD's goal of flooding the farmland was to assist in the restoration of Lake Apopka by reducing nutrient loading and pesticide runoff into the lake and to create a waterfowl habitat and sanctuary on the reclaimed land.

As part of the sale, the State required environmental audits and 'full disclosure' on farms participating in the buy-out. Any areas identified as problematic, such as old pesticide container burial sites or mix/load sites, were sampled, excavated and backfilled with clean soil. Last summer, after concluding that there would be no problems with allowing the area to return to its natural state, about 6,000 acres were flooded with a shallow layer of water to suppress weed growth. The new marshy area attracted a record number of migratory birds. Soon, bird watchers and locals began to notice an unusual number of dead and dying

birds - about 120 birds in the first few months alone. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was alerted and subsequently launched a criminal investigation, since a "taking" of migratory birds had occurred. At present, there is no information regarding any criminal activities related to the bird deaths.

Existing data continue to be assessed, and more samples of soil and water are being taken and analyzed. SJRWMD is about to undertake a \$1 million study to further assess the area, in hopes of determining whether this area can be successfully utilized as a waterfowl habitat and sanctuary. Many state and federal agencies, including the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and EPA's Region 4 Pesticides Section, continue to assist in the ongoing efforts at Lake Apopka. Updates will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

## SECTION 7 UPDATE

Gloria Knight, our Region 4 Section 7 coordinator reports: **Best-ever year for Annual Report Compliance!!** Since Region 4 stepped up enforcement efforts in 1996 to correct the failure of establishments to submit an annual Pesticide Report for Pesticide-Producing Establishments, Delinquent reports have dropped from 13% in 1995, 10% in 1996, 7% in 1997, and less than 4% in 1998, which were due March 1, 1999. We have 2,211 registered establishments in our Region with half of that number registered in Florida. We're pleased to see the delinquency rate continue to decline and feel this can be attributed to increased enforcement efforts, compliance assistance in the form of special mailouts, working directly with some of the large distributors, and **your help in educating establishments about report deadlines** and procedures. We continue to seek your assistance in

reminding establishments of the annual reporting deadline. Some companies are unaware that they must file a report even if they had no production. Thanks again for your help - we'd like to see the compliance rate get higher and the delinquent report rate get even lower!

Since January 1999, Civil Complaints totaling \$4,000 have been filed against the following companies who failed to file their annual report: **SAK Unlimited (Hialeah, FL); Luli Pools (Hialeah and Miami, FL); and Champion 100% Natural Products (Boca Raton, FL).**

## PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP AWARD OFF AND RUNNING

Lora Lee Schroeder, Region 4 Agricultural Initiative Coordinator, announced that the Region 4 Pesticide Stewardship Committee (PSC) is initiating a Pesticide Stewardship Award Program. The PSC is made up of representatives from the Cooperative Extension Service (CES), the State Lead Agencies (SLA), the farm community, EPA, pesticide dealers, and the pesticide industry. The Committee meets quarterly to discuss a variety of issues. At the previous meeting two speakers addressed agromedicine (read "Alphabet Soup" for more information). A goal of the committee is to encourage pesticide stewardship activities within the Region.

For a couple of years, the idea of starting a Regional Pesticide Stewardship Award has been in the wings. The purpose of the Award is to recognize outstanding stewardship activities taking place in Region 4, especially in the area of pesticide risk reduction. We are pleased to see this idea become a reality. This is an exciting opportunity to recognize innovative stewardship activities

taking place in our Region. The PSC will certainly be challenged to select the Region 4 Pesticide Stewardship Award recipient.

The PSC met June 6, 1999, at the Atlanta Federal Center to review the nominations for the new Region 4 Pesticide Stewardship Award and to decide the overall winner to be announced this summer. All of the Project Officers were invited to participate in the selection process and most chose to do so. Nominations were received from Georgia, Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee.

All nominees will be recognized by the presentation of a framed certificate with the overall winner receiving a plaque presented in a forum to be determined by the State Lead Agency in cooperation with the PSC and EPA.

Another action of the committee was a decision to hold a meeting on September 1, 1999, on agromedicine. Representative health care providers will be invited from the region to address pesticides and national strategies for health care providers with the purpose of acting on recommendations which resulted from a workshop sponsored by EPA in April 1998.

Also, a new PSC Chairman was elected. Bob Bellinger, the Pesticide Extension Coordinator from Clemson University, will be assuming the Chairmanship from Del Shelton, DuPont Ag Products.

Since many of you who receive this newsletter may be aware of interesting pesticide stewardship activities in the areas where you live and work, you can play a role in letting your management know of potential nominees for consideration next year. You can also play a role in sharing good ideas as you conduct your inspections. Many best management practices prevent pesticide problems from occurring and encouraging these practices is an important component of our regulatory activities.

## EPA to Hold Meetings in Connection With Aluminum & Magnesium Phosphide Reregistration

EPA is planning a series of public meetings as part of a "phosphine stakeholder process" that is being put in place to resolve numerous ongoing issues related to the reregistration of aluminum & magnesium phosphide.

Aluminum & magnesium phosphide are fumigants most commonly used to treat stored agricultural commodities. Late last year EPA proposed several risk mitigation measures in the Aluminum & Magnesium Phosphide Reregistration Eligibility Document (AL/MG RED). Due to strong industry concerns with the proposed risk mitigation measures, EPA will hold public meetings in EPA Regions 4, 7, and 9 to meet with stakeholders to address industry concerns and allow input into the risk mitigation process. These Regions were chosen based on use patterns and greatest number of concerns being raised (in Region 4 this is the peanut industry, flue-cured tobacco, rice and sweet potatoes).

Because of concerns, EPA issued a revised risk mitigation proposal in order to address the numerous industry comments/concerns received in response to the original proposal. EPA Headquarters felt that stakeholder meetings would be contentious and unproductive at this point given the strong opposition to the original proposal, and hopes that revising the mitigation measures will result in a more acceptable proposal that will allow the Agency to engage in a more productive dialogue at the eventual public meetings. The meetings are now being planned for the October/November time-frame. The new risk mitigation measures proposal and accompanying notice announcing the proposed regional stakeholder meetings will be published in the Federal Register sometime later this summer (July/August). States are encouraged to

make stakeholders aware of the public meetings and promote participation in them. Please contact Richard Pont in the EPA Region 4 office at 404-562-9018 if you have questions or comments.

On a related note, EPA staff traveled to Raleigh, NC, to participate in a phosphine fumigation demonstration put on in connection with the aluminum and magnesium phosphide reregistration process. The demonstration was coordinated and hosted by the Flue-Cured Tobacco Stabilization Group in order to provide EPA HQ risk assessment staff an opportunity to see how phosphine fumigants are applied in a typical use situation in stored tobacco (the fumigants are critical to the tobacco industry for control of tobacco beetle and tobacco moth in stored tobacco). EPA Region 4 and staff from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture Structural Pest Control Division participated in the demonstration activities as co-regulators. The demonstration included a site visit to a tobacco warehouse where the mock fumigation took place, and a follow-up question and answer session for all participants. The tobacco group is part of a larger industry coalition (formed in response to the AL/MG RED) that is working with EPA on the AL/MG RED risk management process to address phosphine risk issues and assure that critical phosphine fumigant uses are preserved. The coalition is hoping that demonstrations such as this will enable EPA to more fully understand phosphine risk issues and the industry's concerns with the proposed risk mitigation measures in the AL/MG RED.

## EPA Reviews Comments on the Certification and

## Training Assessment Group (CTAG) Proposals for Revamping the C&T Program

EPA has received numerous comments on the draft CTAG report, and has heard from various people/organizations that support the proposed changes to the C&T program. CTAG members met in Phoenix, AZ June 25-26, 1999, to review comments on the the draft CTAG report and prepare for the next phase of the process which is to present a consolidated and prioritized package of proposals to participants at the National C&T Workshop being held in Portland, Maine August 8-11, 1999.

EPA is still encouraging interested parties/people to submit comments up until the time of the Portland meeting. Based on feedback from participants at that meeting, EPA will finalize the CTAG report and proposals and develop a strategic plan for moving the CTAG process forward. The next phase will include involving industry and external partners and stakeholders in the process.

The CTAG conducted an extensive review of pesticide education and safety training programs for pesticide applicators in order to develop a set of proposals to direct the future of the program. CTAG was established in 1996 to review previous evaluations and propose changes to the program.

CTAG is co-chaired by EPA and USDA, and its membership covers the range of federal and state regulators and pesticide safety educators, with representatives from EPA Headquarters and EPA Regional Offices, USDA and the Cooperative Extension Service (CES), Pesticide State Lead Agencies, Tribes, the Armed Forces Pest Management Board (AFPMB), the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO), the Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO), and the American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators (AAPSE).

The changes that CTAG is proposing could result in significant changes to the national C&T program through a variety of means -- statutory changes to FIFRA, changes to the regulations (40 CFR 171), and changes in EPA and USDA activities or their activities in conjunction with states, tribes, and territories. Any long-term national program changes ultimately made through FIFRA or the regulations would also require a round of similar changes to state, tribe, and territorial laws and regulations. CTAG's preliminary report, "Pesticide Safety for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," proposes changes in five goal areas. Some of the proposals entail major program changes that will require extensive dialogue and feedback with stakeholders. Proposals are subject to change or elimination, or may be added as a result of comments/feedback received. Both the report and its executive summary containing the entire set of proposals are available at:

<http://aapse.ext.vt.edu>

We would like to assure a wide variety of opinions and issues in the newsletter. Please take the time to let us know what is going on in your State. Submissions can be sent to your Project Officer or to Jane Horton at [horton.jane@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:horton.jane@epamail.epa.gov).

If you would like to receive the newsletter or know of someone else who would, please send the name and address to the electronic mail address above or by letter to:

Jane Horton  
US-EPA Pesticides Section  
61 Forsyth St., SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303



***FY 99 Urban Initiative - Region 4***

| <b>No</b>     | <b>Project Title</b>   | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Sponsor</b>                    | <b>Audience</b>               | <b>Cost</b>       | <b>Contact Name/Phone</b>            |
|---------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1             | How to choose and Use Pesticides Educ. Unit  | Training script for retail staff chain store and video for consumers                       | Univ. Of Ga.                      | Store staff and consumer      | \$ 40,000         | Paul Guillebeau<br>706-542-9031      |
| 2             | Dev. of Ag. Chem Dealer Web site   | Electronic newsletter/brochure Dealer related info.  | FLDACS                            | Ag. Dealers                   | \$ 5,000          | Liz Braxton<br>850-488-3314          |
| 4             | Safe Pesticide Use in Schools Poster   | Dev of poster for elem/middle and high schools throughout Fla.                             | FLDACS                            | children                      | \$ 7,000          | Liz Braxton                          |
| 5             | Urban outreach program tailored to restaurants, food-handling est., and structural | Training guides, posters, digital presentations  | NC State Univ.                    | Food-handling est. Staff/PCOs | \$ 40,000         | Dr. Mike Linker<br>Carl Falco, NCDAG |
| 6             | ROPE - Reach Out to Protect the Elderly  | Dev. of outreach and education program directed at senior citizens for urban               | Kentucky Dept. Of Ag.             | Senior citizens               | \$ 25,000         | John McCauley<br>502-564-7274        |
| 7             | Urban Initiative Elementary educ. Curriculum                                       | Dev. of educ. materials/lesson/video for pre-k - 4th grade level                           | Region 4/PEM                      | children                      | \$ 30,000         | Carter Williamson<br>404-562-9003    |
| 8             | Urban Initiative Childrens Show Project  | Dev. of noematic (puppet) for use on nationally syndicated children's shows/web site/pres. | Region 4/Center for Puppetry Arts | children                      | \$ 40,000         | Carter Williamson                    |
| 9             | Urban Initiative National Spokespersons/press.                                     | Script dev., production and spokesperson to introduce and use for Urban pres.              | Region 4                          | public                        | \$ 38,000         | Carter Williamson                    |
| 10            | Urban Initiative Transit/utility Campaign  | Dev. of outreach/imagery for transit/bus/air/utility                                       | Region 4                          | public                        | \$ 30,000         | Carter Williamson                    |
| 11            | Urban Initiative Introduction/ presentational                                      | Dev. of fundamental UI pres. format for use on web/CD                                      | Region 4                          | public                        | \$ 15,000         | Carter Williamson                    |
| 12            | National/Regional UI Displays  | Create and develop materials for table-top and stand-alone display booths                  | Region 4                          | public                        | \$ 20,000         | Carter Williamson                    |
| 13            | Creative/Consulting Contract for UI  | Create and develop UI projects by Hot Head Studios   | Region 4                          | public                        | \$ 10,000         | Carter Williamson                    |
| <b>TOTALS</b> |  |  |                                   |                               | <b>\$ 300,000</b> |                                      |



**Region 4 Pesticide Newsletter  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA30303**

